

igo THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

industrious poor," who work for their
betters, and
11 the idle poor/' who work for
themselves. Hence
the unending discussions as to whether " the
labouring
poor" are to be classed among the "
productive'¹ or
*^c unproductive " classes—whether they are,
or are not,
really worth their keep. Hence the
indignant repudia-
tion of the suggestion that any substantial
amelioration
of their lot could be effected by any kind of
public
policy. " It would be easier, where property
was well
secured, to live without money than without
poor,
who, as they ought to be kept from
starving, so they
should receive nothing worth saving" ;
the poor
" have nothing to stir them up to be
serviceable but
their wants, which it is prudence to
relieve, but folly
to cure " ; "to make society happy, it is
necessary that
great numbers should be wretched as well as
poor.¹¹ ^{sl}

Such sentences from a work printed in
1714 are not
typical. But they are straws which show
how the wind
is blowing*

In such an atmosphere temperatures
were naturally
low and equable, and enthusiasm, if not a
lapse in
morals, was an intellectual solecism and an
error in taste.
Religious thought was not immune from the
same in-
fluence. It was not merely that the Church,
which, as
much as the State, was the heir of the
Revolution settle-
ment, reproduced the temper of an
aristocratic society,

as it reproduced its class organization and economic inequalities, and was disposed too often to idealize as a virtue that habit of mean subservience to wealth and social position, which, after more than half a century of political democracy, is still the characteristic and odious vice of Englishmen. Not less significant was the fact that, apart from certain groups and certain questions, it accepted the prevalent social philosophy and adapted its teaching to it. The age in which political theory was cast in the mould of religion had yielded to one in which religious thought was no longer an imperious master, but a docile pupil. Conspicuous exceptions like